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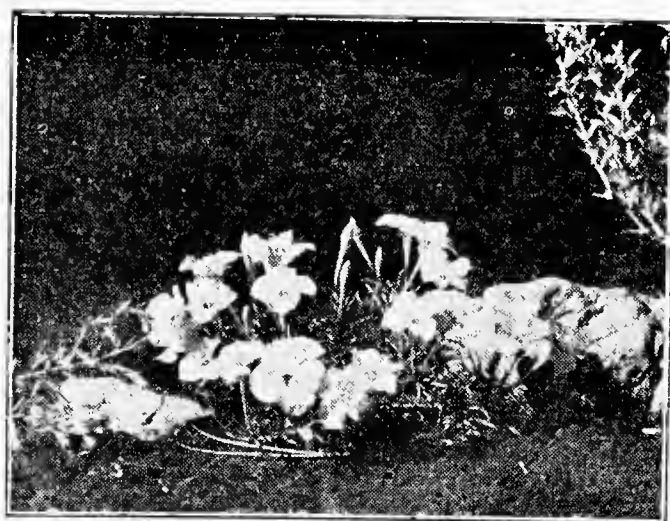
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NATIVE ROCK PLANTS

AND OTHERS

**FROM THE
HIGH PLAINS, BADLANDS AND
BLACK HILLS**

1937



CLAUDE A. BARR

PRAIRIE GEM RANCH

Smithwick, South Dakota

Member American Rock Garden Society

Of Interest to All

The year of 1936 set new records for drought and heat on the Great Plains, and brought forceably to notice the peculiar adaptability of the plants of the region, their innate preparedness to undergo the worst that drought can offer. Such hardships, it goes without saying, work no benefit to the plants, but survival does serve to prove a character valuable to American gardens. In the nursery, as in the wild, actual losses were very few.

The climate of the plains is typical of all of the continent east of the Rockies, but with lighter rainfall and with the extremes of heat, drought, sudden temperature changes, and drying winds accentuated. This weather environment together with soils that often are rich in lime or potash but low in humus and so not retentive of moisture, with surface slope and gravelly or dry subsoil in the spots the flowering plants frequent, has bred many races adapted in growth and flowering habit to garden use. A number of the choicest are herein offered to the public.

In general culture where rainfall is greater and humidity more consistant an agreeable environment for the more tempermental kinds may be approximated by providing a lean soil, full exposure to sun, and such drainage that moisture from heavy rains will escape promptly.

Terms

Our plants are dug and packed to live and grow in your garden, with understanding care. As a rule young and vigorous plants are selected for shipment rather than those of large size. In some species only small plants are transplantable, in some the older plants do better. Some of our material is garden grown, some intelligently collected.

Plan to have your plants arrive as early as you can handle them. It is better to "mud in," in early April, a plant that is just beginning growth than to set it in May in full foliage. Fall is best for such as are dormant at that time.

All prices are prepaid; it simplifies ordering and service. Orders of less than one dollar are not solicited.

Criticisms and complaints are of most value when made promptly. Adjustments are made graciously. Details of your results are welcomed.

Antennaria aprica Silvery olive spatulate leaves in mats an inch high, slender stems with furry heads. Evergreen. Tufts of three crowns, 20c; doz. \$2.00.

A. campestris Those who are passing up all the Antennarias—Pussy-toes, Ladies' Tobacco—as inconspicuous, are missing some delightful mat-forming material. The staminate plant of this species has oval leaves deep green above and white velvet beneath; white

rayed blossoms with touches of old gold, on erect stems 4 inches above. Tufts, 25c; doz. \$2.50.

A. microphylla A rare plant of bluish silver, retaining its clear color in winter, with broadly spatulate little leaves of distinct pattern; white furry heads at 8 inches. Tufts, 35c; doz. \$3.00.

Artemisia frigida A Sage of delightful fragrance. Low feathery silvery tufts, arching spikes laden with tiny bells, Aug. 25c; 3, 60c.

Asclepias pumila Thickly set, bright green, linear leaves, 4 to 8 inch stems, numerous upright umbels, cream to purplish, July. One inch, typical Milkweed pods. Pretty and interesting, not seriously weedy. 20c, 3, 45c.

Aster kumleini Prairie Gem Blue, an extra fine strain. Dense clumps, sheeted with blue and gold, Sept. 12 inches. 20c; 3, 50c.

A. kumleini A rose pink form, slightly taller, carries its masses of fine rare color into October. 20c; 3, 50c.

A. kumleini Silver blue, with very long slender rays, beautiful lacy effect. Late Sept. New. 50c each.

A. meritus A rare low Aster from the higher Black Hills. Pinkish violet, old gold centered, flowers in flat-topped corymbs, July, Aug. 8 to 12 inches. Excellent broad-oval leaves. 45c; 3, \$1.20.

"A. ptarmicoides," see **Unamia**.

Astragalus alpinus A plant of wide distribution, not often available. Ground cover of very beautiful dark green pinnate leaves, numerous heads, white shaded blue, at 5 inches; June, July. 30c; doz. \$2.50.

A. goniatus Feathery pinnate leaves, numerous handsome heads of a lively lavender, late June, on. Ground cover, spreading freely but worth confining. 40c, doz. \$3.50.

Atragene tenuiloba Introducing a rock garden Clematis of high merit. Much-divided leaves of light green, beautiful two-inch, nodding flowers of deep purple. Height 6 to 10 inches. \$1.00 each.

Campanula petiolata Western Harebell, wonderfully free blooming. Charming lavender to violet or purple bells, 8 to 12 inches, June to Sept. 30c; 3, 85c.

Cerastium strictum Abundant white flowers rise to 8 inches from a low mat of rich green, May into July. Nearly evergreen ground cover for light or dense shade. 15c; doz. \$1.00.

Chrysopsis villosa Strain of fine blossom form. The Golden Asters provide color freely in late summer and fall. Shear back to 4 inches in June for best cushioned masses of bloom. 30c; 3, 75c.

Cogswellia villosa Wild Celery, or Parsley. Gray-downy, fern-like leaves lie flat on the ground in late March, later rising to 6 inches. Fuzzy umbels of yellow, April, May. Dies down in summer. 20c; 3, 45c.

Delphineum bicolor Flowers of richest deep blue. June. Usually 12 inches or less. 20c; 3, 50c.

Dodecatheon pauciflorum This very dwarf Shooting Star of bright rose and gold bears its many charming blossoms in May and June. Rich soil, sun or light shade, ordinary moisture. 5 to 10 inches. 30c; doz. \$3.00.

Echinacea angustifolia Great pink Daisies, centers prickly cones of polished mahogany. Leaves mostly basal, to 6 inches, flowering stems 10 to 14 inches. June, July. 30c; 3, 75c.

Erigeron canus One of the dainty little Daisies, or Fleabanes, of the rocky open places. Leaves narrow, grayish, flowers white, 3-4 inch wide, June. 8 to 12 inches. 20c; 3, 50c.

E. flagellaris An appealing new thing in small white Daisies, spreading by rooting down at the tips of low, lateral branches, making a delicate ground cover in good soil, sun or shade. At its best in July, it gives some bloom from late June to Oct. 30c; doz. \$2.50

E. glabellus Pale lavender Daisies of many dainty rays. above crowded leaves of glossy green. Evergreen. Stems ascend usually to 10 inches, bearing as many as five flowers. From shady or moister places in the Black Hills. 20c; clumps, 40c.

Eriogonum flavum Many rounded umbels of soft yellow, fuzzy with stamens, on 4 to 10 inch scapes, above green velvet rosettes, or in old plants 10 inch mats. One of the most distinct and beautiful plants of the hot, limestone outcrops. 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Galium boreale Worthy of extensive use in partly shady places. Tiny white flowers suggest Babysbreath but accent vertical lines; to 12 inches or so. June, July. 20c; 3, 50c.

Galpinsia (Oenothera) lavandulaefolia A most lovely yellow Evening Primrose, which remains open 24 hours or more. Two inch, crinkly flowers, freely borne, June, on. One of the jewels of the plains. 4 to 8 inches. Tiny grayish leaves. (See cover picture). 40c; 3, \$1.00.

Geoprimum (Astragalus) crassicaarpum Buffalo Pea. Maytime blossoms of soft tones, purple, pink, and buff blended. From June on are displayed spread-out clusters of red-cheeked fruits like small plums. 40c; 3, \$1.10.

Gutierrezia sarothrae Broom Bush, once served as raw material for Indian brooms. Related to the Goldenrods but forms mounds, or hemispheres, 6 to 10 inches high, of vivid green, and blossoms in a sheet of brassy yellow, Sept. 25c; 3, 65c.

Hedeoma camporum A perennial Pennyroyal Plant it close at hand upon a rocky ledge, for its delectable and satisfying fragrance. A rounded bushlet, 8 inches high, bearing many tiny, pink-lavender blossoms, June on. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

Homalobus caespitosus This plant of distinct character and irresistible charm forms a dense mat of tiny sharp leaves, to 8 inches in diameter, less than 2 inches high. A profusion of bloom is carried an inch or two higher, through May, its little "Clover" blossoms are violet to purple, the wings tipped

white. Very small plants, 30c; doz. \$3.00.

Lathyrus incanus (ornatus) The Sand Peas are conspicuous and beautiful in May, with rose and pale pink, two-toned blossoms in clusters of 2 to 7. Narrow leaflets grayish, slightly velvety. Height 4 to 10 inches. Forms colonies, sand or loam. 25c; doz. \$2.50.

Lathyrus stipulaceus Like incanus but glabrous, and the banner which carries the rose color has a tinge more of red and less of lavender. Rare in this locality. 30c; doz. \$3.00.

Lesquerella spatulata Bladderpod. An attractive bouquet of brightest yellow, tiny four-petaled blossoms, May to July. Usually 4 inches high, to 10 across. Grey-green winter rosettes. 20c; 3, 50c.

Leucocrinum montanum Bethlehem Star, Sand Lily. Numerous stemless lilies of waxy white, deliciously fragrant, amid a tuft of grassy leaves. April, May. Plant with base of pip two inches deep. Luxuriates in fine gravel with little soil. 25c; doz. \$2.00.

Liatris ligulistylis Blazing Star is a fitting name for this wonderfully beautiful species. Stems carry seven to twelve fluffy heads, 3-4 to 1 inch wide, of lovely clear purple, from basal groups of oblanceolate, green leaves. One to several erect stems, 18 inches or less, July, Aug. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

L. punctata Fluffy spikes of fine transparent purple, 8 to 14 inches, Aug. Basal leaves lance-linear, dark green. Old crowns produce many stems. 30c; 3, 75c.

Lithophragma parviflora The dainty Woodland Star, a member of the Saxifrage family. Lacinated, five-pointed, 3-4 inch stars of purest white, carried 4 to 12 inches up, May, June. Shade, rich soil; dormant soon after flowering. Must be grouped to make a show. 3, 35c; doz. \$1.25.

Lithospermum linearifolium Puccoon, Indian name. Brilliant yet soft yellow, ruffled trumpets, one-half inch wide, May. Always a splendid show. 6 to 10 inches. 30c; 3, 75c.

"**Malvastrum coccineum.**" see **Sphaeralcea.**

Meriolix (Oenothera) serrulata Small Primroses of deep lemon yellow, May to August, remain open through the day. Leaves small, glossy green, turning red in autumn. 8 to 10 inch, shrubby form. 30c; 3, 75c.

Mertensia lanceolata No one who has not seen the dwarf western Bluebells can imagine the refinement of this 10 inch gem. Many arching stems with clusters or, later, panicles of fine blue. April through June. Leaves glaucous, buds pinkish. Dies down in summer. 30c; 3, 75c; doz. \$2.80.

Nothocalais cuspidata Blossoms of Dandelion type but flatter, 2 inches wide, a rich textured bright yellow. Leaves broadly grass-like, white margined. April, May. Dormant in summer. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

Oenothera; see **Galpinsia, Meriolix, Pachylophus.**

Orophaca caespitosa A wonderful companion plant to Homalobus, its pillow-like tufts extend to 8 inches, height to 4 inches. In April

and May the stemless white blossoms crowd for space among the silvery tri-parted leaves. This spring, 50c each; fall, if the season is good, 25c; 3, 65c.

O. sericea Third of an interesting trio. Blossoms of purple-red, one to three on short stems among the leaves. Attains with age a spread of 18 inches. 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Oxytropis lamberti Loco, a characteristic and showy Astragalus. Many erect racemes of rich toned, longish, Pea blossoms, purple, purplish red, to blue, from light to dark. 12 inches. Silvery pinnate leaves at the ground. 20c; doz. \$2.00.

Pachylophus (Oenothera) caespitosa Stemless Primrose, Gumbo Lily. 4 inch snowy blossoms, very fragrant, among lanceolate, glossy leaves, May to Aug. Delights in clay, lime, and underdrainage. 30c; 3, 75c.

Parosela enneandra A plant that is different. May serve as a "tree" in the rock garden. One to several slender arching stems rise 12 to 24 inches or more, ending in rocket-bursts of spreading stems, with slender swaying racemes of silvery calyces and whitish blossoms. Blossom effect, June-Aug. 25c; 3, 65c.

Pentstemon The plains Pentstemons have a more or less undeserved reputation of transiency. In their native haunts, with a lean soil and excellent subdrainage, they often live to five years. Cut back the stems and do not water after flowering.

P. albidus Close spires of large white blossoms, May, June. 6 to 14 inches. 20c; 3, 50c.

P. angustifolius Brilliant azure, with narrow, glaucous, evergreen basal leaves, this flower has a wonderful appeal. Height usually not over 12 inches. 25c; 3, 65c.

P. eriantherus Handsome spires of large, warm lavender blossoms with prominent gold-hairy tongues, buds pinkish. Leaves broad, hairy. Lime and heavy soil may be necessary. 20c; 3, 50c.

P. glaber Large for the rock garden, 12 to 24 inches, with many stems. A fine dark blue, often touches of purple. June, July, and again if cut back. 25c; 3, 60c.

P. gracilis A graceful small flowered kind, amethyst colored or lighter. 10 to 12 inches. Accepts light shade; June, July. 20c; 3, 50c.

Petalostemon purpureus Prairie Clover. Several spreading stems with many long heads of red-purple, dotted with orange stamens, June, July. Fragrant, much admired. Foliage inconspicuous. Dry position, preferably in sand. 30c; 3, 75c.

P. villosus This beauty from the sand hills is a spreading bushlet 5 to 12 inches high, somewhat wider. Flowers a soft silvery rose; the cone, as well as the seven-to-nine-parted leaves and stem, velvety gray-green. July-Sept. Best deep drainage. 35c; 3, 90c.

Phlox alyssifolia Lavender pink to bright pink, the flowers often an inch in diameter, their delicious scent fills the garden. Leaves lanceolate, slightly grayish, white margined.

3 to 5 inches. May, June. Spreads slowly. Easy to establish in this climate, worth any effort. 30c; doz. \$3.00.

P. andicola The large blossomed fine white Phlox of the plains. Height 3 to 4 inches. Needle leaves in open arrangement. Long season, April through June. Delicately fragrant. 20c; doz. \$2.00.

P. hoodi A lovely mite with half-inch white flowers starring the mossy foliage, April, May. Likes rocks, gravel, fine sand, or loam. The Great Plains form is deep green, lacking the hairiness of the type. Forms mats slowly. 30c; doz. \$3.00.

Pulsatilla ludoviciana (Anemone patens nuttalliana) Pasque. Furry buds open to large starry chalices of delicate lavender with glowing yellow centers, before the leaves appear, March to May. The divided leaves and tall silvery-brownish seed heads are attractive later. Accepts full sun or much shade, but no permanent wet at the roots. A grand plant. 35c; 3, 90c.

Sideranthus spinulosus Solid masses of golden Asters, Aug.-Oct., covering the low spreading branches. Leaves finely divided, frosty. A fine thing. 20c; 3, 50c.

Solidago mollis A handsome low Goldenrod, worth a trial. 8 to 12 inches, with broad gray-green leaves, and very bright roundish heads, Sept. 25c; 3, 65c.

Sphaeralcea (Malvastrum) coccinea Flame Mallow. Short spires of one-inch Mallow blossoms of flame-scarlet, above unique, deeply cut grayish leaves. Lean soil filled with gravel. June and later. 25c; 3, 65c.

Tetraeneuris simplex An excellent golden Daisy. Flowers carried on leafless, 4 to 8 inch stems from the ground, May to July or later. Beautiful rosettes of narrow silvery leaves close to the ground, in autumn. Lime. 20c; doz. \$2.00.

Thermopsis rhombifolia Broad, close racemes of large Golden Peas. Beautiful and unusual Maytime flower. 6 to 12 inches. Forms loose colonies. 15c; 3, 40c.

Townsendia exscapa Easter Daisy. Large pinkish daisies on a tuft of narrow, evergreen leaves. April, May. Never over 2 inches high. This gem is difficult to keep in moist climates. The dryest possible soil and situation should be found effective. 25c; 3, 65c.

T. sericea Smaller than exscapa, with white flowers more numerous, April. Leaves very narrow, dusty green, evergreen. May need lime. 25c; 3, 65c.

Tradescantia bracteata This excellent dwarf Spiderwort is remarkable for its color forms, ranging from deep blue and purple through many shades of heliotrope to sky blue, lavender and bright rose. Blooms from June on. 4 to 12 inches. 20c; doz. \$1.30.

T. occidentalis Growth upright to 12 inches. Blue flowered, its color effect aided by glaucous stems and leaves. Distinct habit; long season. 20c; doz. \$1.60.

Unamia alba (*A. ptarmicoides*) Single Asters of fine white, in broad corymbs, the creamy white disks creating a chaste appearance and distinct value. July-Sept. 12 inches. Sun or shade. 30c; 3, 85c.

Verbena bipinnatifida Broad heads of deep lavender, late May to Oct. Height 3 to 6 inches, spread 20 inches or more. Constantly in bloom. 30c; 3, 80c.

Viola nephrophylla Blue; leaves heart-shaped. At its best in part shade, in lime crevices. April, May. 20c; 3, 50c.

V. nuttalli The brilliant yellow Prairie Violet. Stemless in early season, by late May it may rise to 6 inches, blooming profusely the while. Dormant, late summer. 20c; 3, 50c; doz. \$1.60.

Viorna scotti Leatherflower. A blue to purple, nodding, urn Clematis. Height 10 inches. May, June. Leaves divided, glaucous; conspicuous, silky-tawny seed plumes. 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Xylophacos (*Astragalus*) *missouriensis* Called Sheep Pod. Showy racemes of magenta-purple Pea blossoms, with a lavender triangle in the banner. May, June. Mat of gray pinnate leaves. Height 4 inches, spread to 16. 30c; 3, 85c.

BULBS — for Delivery October 1st

Allium textile Very pretty, in May, when the clustered bulbs hold forth their broad umbels of green-ribbed white stars. Foliage green. Doz. 35c.

Calochortus The two species of Mariposa Tulip native to the northern plains are free from all question of hardiness. Nuttalli, the earlier, often puts up its buds in spite of nightly frosts. Successful culture is in so far simplified. Instructions given.

C. gunnisoni A very lovely white chalice, with clusters of greenish hairs on the lower part of the petal. July. Few long grassy leaves. Doz. \$1.00; 100, \$7.50.

C. nuttalli Called Sego Lily in Utah. One of the most brilliant, a wonderful flower of white with gold and maroon markings. June. Leaves glaucous. Doz. 85c; 100, \$6.50.

Toxicoscordion (*Zygadenus*) *gramineum* False Camas. Creamy stars with yellow stamens in an erect spike, 8 to 16 inches, from grassy basal leaves. June. Easy culture. Doz. 60c; 100, \$4.50.

CACTI — the Six Hardest Kinds

Echinocereus viridiflorus Ball; bright colored spines, yellow blossoms; June. 25c.

Mamillaria missouriensis Ball; pale yellow blossoms, crimson fruits. Best draining. 35c.

M. vivipara Showy carmine blossoms. Occasionally forms groups. 30c; 3, 75c.

Opuntia fragilis Dwarf Prickly Pear, 2 inch sections. 2 inch blossoms. 25c.

O. humifusa Large dark green sections, largest silken yellow flowers, with red filaments. Ripe "pears," dark red. 25c.

O. polyacantha Very spiny 4-inch sections, large yellow flowers, May, June. 25c.